

Acantholyda birmanica sp. nov. (Hymenoptera, Pamphiliidae) from Myanmar

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Abstract A new species of the conifer-feeding web-spinning sawfly genus *Acantholyda* is described from “Adung Valley”, northern Myanmar under the name of *Acantholyda (Itycorsia) birmanica*. It is well characterized by its mainly pale brown and pale dull yellow head, thorax and abdomen, the hyaline immaculate wings with pale yellowish veins and stigma, distinctly punctate and pilose dorsal part of the paraantennal field, and fairly smooth surface between punctures on the head. This is one of the two pamphiliid sawflies known to occur in Myanmar.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Pamphiliidae, *Acantholyda*, new species, Myanmar.

Acantholyda A. Costa, 1894, is a genus of conifer-feeding web-spinning sawflies represented by over 60 species in the Holarctic region. A total of 34 species occur in North America, ten in Europe and Turkey to Siberia, ten in China, Taiwan, and Korea, and 14 in Japan (Gussakovskij, 1935; Xiao *et al.*, 1992; Shinohara & Byun, 1996; Shinohara, 2001, and references cited therein). Beneš (1972) first reported on the occurrence of an *Acantholyda* species in Myanmar based on a specimen kept in the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, but did not publish a detailed report about the species. In the following lines, we will describe this species as new.

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Acantholyda (Itycorsia) birmanica sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

Acantholyda sp. cf. *flavomarginata* Maa: Beneš, 1972: 394.

Female (holotype). Length about 14 mm. Head (Fig. 1A) very pale yellow, with pale brown areas on postocellar and postocular areas, frons, and dorsal part of postgena; small black spots around each ocellus and lateral fovea, and between lateral ocellus and eye; large area between median hole (maxacava) and lateral hole on postgena and maxillaria black; mandible pale brown, apex dark ferruginous; antenna pale brown, scape very slightly darkened and several apical segments blackish. Thorax very pale yellow, with pale brown and narrow black areas as follows; pronotum with dorsal part largely pale brown and anterodorsal part black; cervical sclerite laterally pale brown; mesonotum (Fig. 1D) with anterior margin of mesoscutal median lobe, anterolateral and mesal parts of mesoscutal lateral lobe, and sunken area pale brown, and spot just in front of mesoscutellum, narrow lateral and posterior margin of mesoscutellum, and narrow posterior margin of sunken area black; mesopostnotum black;

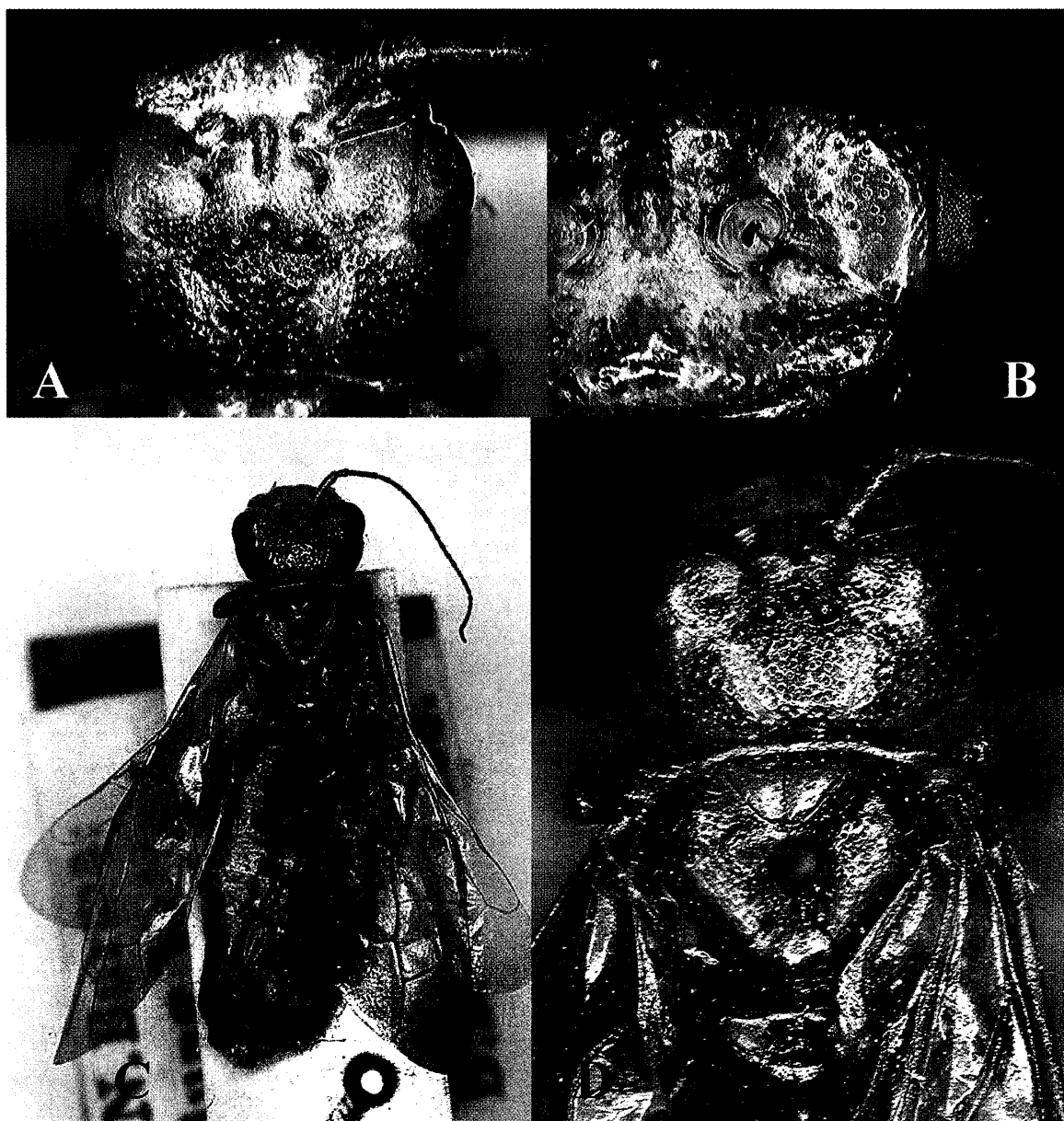


Fig. 1. *Acantholyda birmanica* sp. nov., holotype, female. A, Head, dorsal view; B, head, frontal view; C, entire insect; D, head and thorax, dorsal view.

mesepisternum with narrow ventral and posterior (but not anterior) margins black and pseudosternum pale brown; mesepimeron black except for paired ventral pale brown spots and pale yellow katepimeron; metanotum with outer margin of metascutellum, including large area before it, and lateral sunken area mostly black; metepisternum with narrow outer margin and ventral margin of katepimeron black. Legs pale yellow, with dorsal surface of each femur and trochanter and basal margin of each coxa black. Wings (Fig. 1C) yel-

lowish hyaline, veins and stigma pale yellow; basal part and anterior and posterior margins of stigma slightly darkened. Abdomen (Fig. 1C) pale brown, with most of propodeum, fading lateral spots on 2nd tergum, posteromedian part of 7th sternum, and sawsheath black; narrow anterior margin of each segment black, but this black area usually concealed under preceding segment and not or hardly visible.

Head with sharp postgenal carina laterally; vertex (postocellar area) about 0.83 as long as

anterior width; transverse, lateral transverse, and coronal sutures indistinct; frons weakly raised; ocellar basin small and very shallow; median fovea indistinct; facial crest rather strongly raised, rounded; frontal crest distinct between antennae, bluntly carinate; clypeus swollen medially, about as high as frontal crest in lateral view. Head behind level of transverse and lateral transverse sutures and upper part of gena with rather widely spaced, usually large, distinct punctures, interspaces smooth; area from level of lateral transverse suture to facial crest and frons with dense, smaller punctures, irregularly reticulate; dorsal 2/3 of paraantennal field with sparse but distinct punctures, remaining part impunctate, surface between punctures very smooth (Fig. 1B); clypeus with widely spaced, small to medium-sized punctures, interspaces smooth, lateral part rugose; lower part of gena coarsely and irregularly rugose. Punctures on head bearing pale, nearly colorless setae. Right antenna 31-segmented (left one missing); 3rd segment about 2.0 as long as 4th. Forewing with cell C glabrous and stub of crossvein $m+cu-a$ absent; hindwing lacking apical stub of vein 2A. Abdominal terga rather heavily coriaceous, weakly shiny.

Holotype: Female “N. Burma: Adung Valley, 23,000ft., 23-VII-1931, B. M. 1932-196” “Holotypus/*Acantholyda birmanica* sp. n., det. Beneš, 1977” “Holotype, *Acantholyda birmanica* n. sp., Shinohara & Beneš, 2005”. In the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm.

Remarks. Beneš (1972) first made reference to this species noting that “in the collection of the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm, there is also one probably still undescribed species of *Acantholyda* from Burma (cf. *flavomarginata* Maa).” The holotype already bears Beneš’s holotype label prepared in 1977. The only other pamphiliid sawfly so far recorded from this country is *Onycholyda birmanica* Beneš, 1972, referred to the other subfamily Pamphiliinae.

Acantholyda birmanica has the postgenal carina sharply defined and the apical stub of 2A absent in the hindwing and thus belongs to the subgenus *Itycorsia* (Shinohara, 2001). It is well

characterized by its mainly pale brown to pale dull yellow coloration, the hyaline immaculate wings with pale yellowish veins and stigma, distinctly punctate and pilose dorsal part of the paraantennal field, and fairly smooth surface between punctures on the head (Fig. 1). In the old key to the Palearctic species by Gussakovskij (1935), it may be identified with “*Lyda nemoralis* Thoms.” (= *A. posticalis* Matsumura, 1912), but the new species is separated from *A. posticalis* by the distinctly punctate and pilose dorsal part of the paraantennal field (Fig. 1B). In Xiao’s key to the Chinese species (Xiao, 2002), this new species runs to couplet 5, which contains *A. pseudodimorpha* Xiao, 1984, and *A. peiyingaopaoa* Hsiao, 1963. From *A. pseudodimorpha*, the new species is easily distinguished by the lack of black marking on the fore- and hindwings and the lack of black spot on the posterior part of the abdomen (Fig. 1C) (in *A. pseudodimorpha*, the wings and the 6th to 8th abdominal terga have distinct black spots; see fig. 525 in Xiao *et al.*, 1992) and from *A. peiyingaopaoa* by the yellowish hyaline wings with the pale veins and the mostly pale brown abdomen (in *A. peiyingaopaoa*, the wings and abdomen are mostly black; see fig. 526 in Xiao *et al.*, 1992). *Acantholyda flavomarginata* Maa, 1944, with which Beneš (1972) compared the new species, is a much darker species with large metallic blackish areas on the head, thorax and abdomen and with blackish brown wing veins and stigma (see fig. 1 in Shinohara, 1991, and fig. 516 in Xiao *et al.*, 1992). From Korea, only three species of *Acantholyda* are known (Shinohara & Byun, 1996; Shinohara, 2000), one belonging to the subgenus *Acantholyda* (*A. erythrocephala* Linnaeus, 1758) and two belonging to the *A. posticalis* complex of the subgenus *Itycorsia* (*A. posticalis koreana* Shinohara, 2000, and *A. parki* Shinohara & Byun, 1996); the two Korean *Itycorsia* species resemble the new species in color pattern but differ from it in the impunctate and glabrous dorsal part of the paraantennal field. In Shinohara’s (2001) key to Japanese species, this species would run to couplet 6, which contains *A.*

mizunoi Shinohara, 2001, and *A. tsuyukii* Shinohara, 2001. However, these two are mostly black species with stronger microsculpture on the head (see Shinohara, 2001, for more details).

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